

**Amendments To The Drawings**

The five (5) attached replacement sheets of drawings include changes to each of  
FIGS. 1 – 9.

Attachment: Five (5) Replacement Sheets of FIGS. 1 - 9

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

In the Office Action, the drawings were objected to as being too dark.

New FIGS. 1-9 are submitted herewith on five replacement sheets.

The Abstract was objected to as being in excess of 150 words. The new Abstract provided above is in proper form and well-within the 150 word limit.

Claims 3 and 7 were alleged to be substantial duplicates. Claim 7 as amended above is believed to encompass subject matter that is distinctly different from that recited in claim 3.

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of U.S. patent 6,526,192, EP 0 851 247 and U.S. patent 5,283,846.

Paraphrased, claim 1 as amended recites a fiber optic cable, the cladding of which is reduced in diameter over a limited length of the cable. New claim 8 defines the preferred embodiment of the reduced-diameter cladding.

After reviewing the references cited by the Examiner, none of them disclose an optical fiber having a cladding section that is reduced. The Applicant therefore submits that claim 1 as amended avoids the prior art. New claim 8 recites the preferred size of the reduced cladding section.

Support for the limitations added to claim 1 and for new claim 8 can be found on pages 14 and 15 of the specification as well as the figures. No new matter has been added.

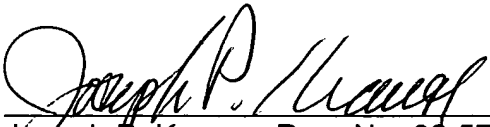
The Examiner will note too that the dependent claims have been amended to delete the "characterized" terminology and to thereby conform them to U.S. claim style. The Applicant submits that such a revision is not a surrender of claim scope under

*Festo* If the Examiner contends otherwise, he is asked to explain how and why such amendments narrow claim scope.

Since the Examiner's objections and claim rejections have been traversed, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-8 are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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**APPENDIX OF ATTACHMENTS**

Application Serial No. 10/519,249  
Reply to Office Action of September 21, 2005

**Replacement Sheets of FIGS. 1-9  
(a total of 5 sheets of drawings)**